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Message Text

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62
ACTION AGR-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 EB-04 AID-05 COME-00 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-01 SWF-01 IO-04 DRC-01

/037 W
---------- 127285
R 151442Z OCT 74
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1741
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAMASCUS 2383

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, SY
SUBJECT: SYRIA: PL 480 TITLE I

REF: A. STATE 218418; B. DAMASCUS 2208

1. FURTHER TO OUR COMMENTS ON SYRIAN WHEAT PRODUCTION ESTIMATES, BEIRUT AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE POINTS OUT HIS LATEST GRAIN REPORT SY4004 (AUGUST 9, 1974) CARRIES 1974 SYRIAN WHEAT CROP ESTIMATE OF 1.2 MILLION M.T. THIS ESTIMATE REFLECTED A SHARP REDUCTION FROM EARLIER ESTIMATES WITH LOWER YIELDS DUE TO NO RPT NO RAINFALL AFTER MARCH AND ADVERSE GROWING CONDITIONS APRIL ONWARD WITH HOT DESERT WINDS IN MOST WHEAT AREAS. BECAUSE OF LACK OF ANY REPORTS FROM SYRIAN AUTHORITIES AT TIME ESTIMATE GIVEN, AGRATT REPORTED "OUR CROP ESTIMATES ARE MORE TENTATIVE THEN WE WOULD LIKE TO GIVE AT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR WHEN HARVEST IS PROBABLY COMPLETED."

2. AGRATT RECEIVED ORGANISME GENERALE DES CEREALES ET DES MINOTERIES (OGCM) ESTIMATE OF WHEAT CROP OF 1,050,000 M.T. ON SEPT. 21 WHICH WAS HIS FIRST CONTACT WITH ANY OFFICIAL AGENCY KNOWLEDGEABLE 1974 GRAIN CROP. OGCM CONTROLS MARKETING DOMESTIC WHEAT CROP AND REPORTED PURCHASING 515,000 M.T. THIS SEASON. AGRATT BELIEVES SARG AGRICULTURE MINISTRY ESTIMATE
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OF 1.6 MILLION M.T. AN EARLY AND NOW INACCURATE ESTIMATE MADE

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PRIOR TO RECEIVING ANY REPORTS FROM CEREALS OFFICE ON SEASON'S WHEAT PURCHASES WHICH ARE NOW BELIEVED COMPLETED.

3. ANOTHER INDICATION OF SYRIAN NEEDS IS EC'S INTENTION TO REDUCE BY 50 PERCENT THE PREVIOUSLY NOTIFIED UMR LEVEL FOR SYRIA FROM 204,000 M.T. TO 1000,200 M.T.
(EC BRUSSELS 7780).

4. REQUEST DEPT INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT-AGRATT ON MESSAGES DEALING WITH EC FOOD AID TO SYRIA AND WFP/SYRIA MESSAGES; WE ARE INFORMING EC BRUSSELS AND ROME (FODAG).
MURPHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, WHEAT, PL 480 TITLE 1
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740293-0131
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ISecure: 1
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